2 3 5 6 7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON 8 AT SEATTLE HARLEY MARINE SERVICES, INC., a 10 Washington corporation; OLYMPIC TUG & BARGE, INC., a Washington IN ADMIRALTY 11 corporation, 12 Plaintiffs. NO. 2:17-CV-856 13 v. COMPLAINT FOR MONEY 14 FATHOM MARINE, INC., a British Columbia DAMAGES AND INJUNCTIVE **RELIEF** corporation, 15 Defendant. 16 17 Plaintiffs state and alleges as follows: I. PARTIES, JURISDICTION, AND VENUE 18 19 1.1 This is an action within the admiralty and maritime jurisdiction of this Court 20 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1333 and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 9(h). 21 1.2 Plaintiff Olympic Tug & Barge, Inc. ("Olympic") was, and still is, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Washington with its principal place of business in Seattle, Washington. 23 24 1.3 Plaintiff Harley Marine Services, Inc. ("HMS") was and still is a corporation 25 organized and existing under the laws of the State of Washington with its principal place of 26 business in Seattle, Washington.

	e.	<b>"13.</b>	<b>Insurance and Repairs</b>	(a)	During the Charter Period the
Vessel shall b	e kept i	nsured l	by the Charterers at their exp	pense aga	inst hull and machinery, war
and Protection	n and In	demnity	risks (and any risks against	t which it	is compulsory to insure for the
operation of the	he Vess	el)	The Charterers also to rema	ain respo	nsible for and to effect repairs
and settlemen	nt of cos	ts and e	xpenses incurred thereby in	respect o	f all other repairs not covered
by the insurar	nces and	l/or not	exceeding any possible franc	chise(s) o	or deductibles provided for in
the insurances	S	(g)	The Charterers shall indem	nify and	hold the Owners harmless
(including leg	gal fees	and cost	es of litigation) of and from a	any loss,	damage, expense, liability,
claim, or suit	resultin	g from t	the failure to procure and/or	maintain	any insurance as required by
this Contract	and/or t	he failu	re of any such insurance, inc	cluding ex	xposure to any loss, damage,
expense, liabi	ility, cla	im or su	it which would have been c	overed ha	ad the insurance been procured
and maintained as required."					

f. **"15.** Redelivery At the expiration of the Charter Period the Vessel shall be redelivered by the Charterers to the Owners at a safe and ice-free port or place as indicated in Box 16 [Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada], in such ready safe berth as the Owners may direct... should the Charterers fail to redeliver the Vessel within the Charter Period, the Charterers shall pay the daily equivalent to the rate of hire stated in Box 22 plus 10 percent, or to the market rate, whichever is the higher, for the number of days by which the Charter Period is exceeded. All other terms, conditions and provisions of this Charter shall continue to apply... The Charterers shall be [] obligated to redeliver the Vessel in the same good condition, repair and working order as upon delivery... with such same good condition, repair a[nd] working order as upon delivery defined to exclude ordinary wear and tear occurring to the Vessel during the Charter Period... Redelivery shall not occur until the Vessel has been restored to the same good condition, repair, and working order, less ordinary wear and tear, as upon delivery has been accomplished..."

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- 2.12 Surrounding Toker Point are at least two Inuvialuit burial sites, as well as Inuvialuit hunting, fishing, and trapping areas, as well as Inuvialuit historical and cultural sites.
  - 2.13 The area surrounding Toker Point is also a sensitive waterfowl habitat.
- 2.14 The grounding of the INVESTIGATOR—a tank barge loaded with petroleum product—by Fathom posed a serious, immediate threat to both the pristine natural conditions of Toker Point, the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, and the cultural landmarks of the Inuvialuit people.
- 2.15 Fathom's attorneys remarked subsequently, in Fathom's application for an immediate Coastwise Trading License, that "[t]he circumstances surrounding the grounding of the Investigator and the heavy weather conditions in the region which has hampered refloating operations, as well as the impending close of the arctic season, has created a situation of urgency in which the normal delays of notification cannot be respected[.]"
- 2.16 Despite the immediacy of the danger posed by Fathom's grounding of the INVESTIGATOR, upon current information and belief, no notice of the event or grounding was given to Olympic or HMS until the following day, September 3, 2016.
- 2.17 Fathom informed Olympic/HMS on September 3 that while weather hampered initial retrieval efforts, the INVESTIGATOR should be recovered in short order and safely moored in Tuktoyaktuk harbor, likely by the evening of September 6.
- 2.18 The INVESTIGATOR was not in Tuktoyaktuk harbor that evening; nor the next evening; nor the next.
- 2.19 In its September 8, 2016 "Preliminary Salvage Plan"—developed by Fathom and its surveyor, Marc McAllister, and sent to the Canadian Coast Guard ("CCG")—Fathom represented that the INVESTIGATOR was filled with 20 metric tons of diesel in its #4 port and starboard tanks. Twenty metric tons is approximately 6,265 gallons of diesel.
- 2.20 Fathom's sole "plan" as set forth in its Preliminary Salvage Plan involved using the "prop wash" (Stage 1 of Fathom's plan) from a towing vessel to remove sand and sediment surrounding the INVESTIGATOR.

- 2.21 An attorney for Fathom's insurance company later confirmed in writing that Fathom's "prop wash" solution was entirely infeasible, as it was dependent on unavailable Canadian vessels. (Surveyor McAllister later proposed a second option of using a truckable suction dredge to remove sand from beneath the barge—also confirmed by counsel as infeasible due to the unavailability of the suction dredge.)
- 2.22 No plan was formulated by Fathom beyond the infeasible "prop wash" solution to free and recover the barge.
- 2.23 "Stage 2" of Fathom's "plan" was merely that Fathom would draft a "Stage 2" plan if Stage 1 ("prop wash") failed.
- 2.24 "Stage 3" of Fathom's "plan" was strikingly brazen: "winter-in" the INVESTIGATOR—that is, leave it where it was to be consumed by ice from the Canadian Arctic and risk environmental cataclysm.
- 2.25 Fathom revised its initial Salvage Plan on September 9, 2016. In its September 9, 2016 "Revision 1" to its Salvage Plan, Fathom acknowledged that "[a]ll non-ice strengthened vessels are to be clear [of] the zone by October 20th." (Fathom again represented in "Revision 1" of their Salvage Plan that the barge was filled with 20 metric tons or 6,265 gallons of diesel fuel.)
- 2.26 In sum, Fathom had no meaningful plan to recover the INVESTIGATOR, and was aware that the window for recovery of the barge was closing quickly. According to Fathom, by October 20, arctic ice would make the area where Fathom had grounded the INVESTIGATOR inaccessible to all but "ice-classed" vessels.
- 2.27 Ice, which moves throughout the Canadian Arctic, posed an ongoing threat of which Fathom was expressly aware. Ice could shift the barge to an unknown location, dislodge it, set it adrift, or, worse, crush or puncture the vessel, spilling its payload of petroleum products into the surrounding pristine environment.
- 2.28 Despite the immediate risk posed by the grounding of the INVESTIGATOR, and despite the risk posed by the imminent freezing of the area, Fathom's September 9 "Revision 1"

to its Salvage Plan prioritized "lightering" (i.e. removal of petroleum products from the barge) and "winterizing" the INVESTIGATOR to leave it where it was over removal.

- 2.29 In its "Decision Making Timeline," Fathom provided for only two days of "prop washing" sand (September 14 and 15) before its focus shifted to "winterizing" the INVESTIGATOR.
- 2.30 As Fathom was aware, "lightering" the INVESTIGATOR for winter would not remove all of the petroleum product, as even when "empty," the barge's tanks will remain coated with substantial quantities of petroleum product, still capable of diffusing into the surrounding environment.
- 2.31 Despite the alleged commitment to lighter the barge, the only lightering plan Fathom ever proposed that was capable of implementation was the fanciful suggestion to use a helicopter to collect the barge's fuel in totes and fly it off the barge.
- 2.32 As part of its lightering plan, Fathom failed to make preparations for basic safety precautions, such as gas freeing the INVESTIGATOR's tanks. Furthermore, Fathom had misrepresented the quantity of diesel onboard the INVESTIGATOR. The barge was carrying closer to 13,894 gallons of diesel, as opposed to the 6,265 gallons initially reported.
- 2.33 Moreover, Fathom also represented to the CCG in its "Revision 1" to its Salvage Plan that "there is very little surplus of equipment available" to partake in actually removing the INVESTIGATOR (as opposed to "winterizing" it) from its current position.
- 2.34 Communications from Fathom to Olympic with regard to the INVESTIGATOR'S status between September 6 and the following week and a half were, effectively, non-existent.
- 2.35 Instead, while the INVESTIGATOR was stranded at Toker Point, Fathom focused its communications with Olympic and HMS on proposals for purchasing the INVESTIGATOR.
- 2.36 Through Olympic and HMS' customers and other various channels, on or about September 16, Olympic and HMS learned that the INVESTIGATOR was still grounded and little, if any efforts, had been expended by Fathom to recover the barge.

- 2.37 Olympic, HMS, and the Harley family of companies pride themselves on their commitment to safety, community, and environmental responsibility. Having the INVESTIGATOR, an Olympic barge, with Olympic colors, carrying petroleum product grounded in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, in a pristine wildlife habitat—and, to learn of its continued grounding from its customers, rather than Fathom—was simply not acceptable.
- 2.38 It was not until September 16 that Olympic/HMS was provided Fathom's "Revision 1" Salvage Plan.
- 2.39 Upon learning the INVESTIGATOR was still grounded, Olympic/HMS immediately mobilized personnel to attend the barge and assess the ongoing situation.
- 2.40 Despite knowing its plan was entirely infeasible, Fathom reassured Olympic and HMS on September 19 that Fathom's prop-washing plan was likely to free the barge in the next few days. Fathom also reassured Olympic and HMS that Fathom would complete lightering operations by October 2.
- 2.41 With no progress made by Fathom in freeing the INVESTIGATOR, Olympic and HMS personnel reached out to Fathom and Olympic's joint insurance underwriters, indicating Olympic/HMS' frustrations with the non-progress of the recovery of the INVESTIGATOR.
- 2.42 Olympic and HMS personnel were rebuffed, with the hull underwriters indicating they would not communicate with Olympic—their own insured—due to concerns over "confidentiality."
- 2.43 Frustrated by Fathom's non-action and the bad faith behavior of its insurers, on September 26, Olympic and HMS demanded SMIT—an experienced salvage and vessel-recovery company—be named as salvage master to ensure immediate recovery of the INVESTIGATOR.
- 2.44 Fathom's underwriters refused, and Fathom did not press its insurers. Ultimately, SMIT was not permitted to participate in the recovery effort.
- 2.45 Olympic and HMS repeated concerns about the consequences of "a failed salvage" of the INVESTIGATOR to Fathom and its underwriters on multiple occasions.

- 2.46 Olympic and HMS expressed, in no uncertain terms, to Fathom and its underwriters, that Olympic/HMS suspected they were colluding to simply leave the INVESTIGATOR grounded on the beach.
- 2.47 Olympic and HMS advanced their own plan to both Fathom and its underwriters to use airbags and available equipment to refloat the INVESTIGATOR while pulling it off the beach. Olympic and HMS' plan was time-tested and had been used previously in the Arctic to refloat barges.
- 2.48 Contrary to Fathom's representations that there was no meaningful available equipment to participate in recovering the INVESTIGATOR, Olympic and HMS immediately located recovery assets, including marine equipment operated by Bowhead Transport, Cruz Marine, Crowley, and others to participate in the recovery effort.
- 2.49 Among this equipment was the Bowhead-operated, triple-screw, shallow-water vessel UNALAQ, various tugboats (including HMS' own equipment), 100-ton winches which could be mounted on a variety of vessels to participate in pulling the INVESTIGATOR off the beach, as well as airbags which could be placed under the barge to reduce sand suction and aid in the recovery effort.
- 2.50 Olympic and HMS' plan to minimize any losses to the barge and surrounding environment was not only the "right thing to do" for the surrounding community and environment, it was also fully consistent with its duty to sue and labor under its insurance policies to reduce potential losses to its underwriters.
- 2.51 On September 29, 2016, Olympic/HMS expressly advised Fathom, in writing, that its salvage attempts to date had been an utter failure, time was being wasted, and its fanciful plan for helicopter lighterage was both foolhardy and dangerous.
- 2.52 Fathom knew that the highest tide in the area was set for October 2, 2016. After that time, decreasing water levels would necessarily make it more difficult to refloat and recover the INVESTIGATOR.

2.53 On October 1, 2016, Olympic/HMS again expressly requested involvement in
ecovery of the barge. They also expressly requested immediate funding from Olympic and
Fathom's mutual underwriters so Olympic/HMS could mobilize equipment. These requests were
lenied.

- From late September, until October 6, 2016, Fathom repeatedly insisted to Transportation Canada and the CCG that Fathom's focus should be helicopter lightering of the barge and winterizing same, rather than refloating and recovery of the barge.
- On September 30, 2016, Fathom went so far as to misrepresent in writing to Transportation Canada and the CCG that Olympic and HMS had made no specific offer of assistance to Fathom. (Fathom subsequently insisted that both agencies cut off all communication
- Fathom's ineptness and conceit resulted in Olympic/HMS being unable to mobilize in time to utilize the season's highest tides on October 2 to refloat and recover the
- As expected, and as Olympic/HMS expressly warned, Fathom's attempt to lighter 16 the INVESTIGATOR with helicopters was an utter failure. On or about October 6, upon information and belief, Fathom was able to remove approximately one small "tote" worth of petroleum product before Fathom's helicopter was forced to retire. At no time was Fathom able to remove any meaningful quantity of diesel from the INVESTIGATOR with its helicopter
  - Following the failed helicopter lightering, CCG issued a Direction Order on October 6, 2016, more than 30 days after the casualty first occurred. The Direction Order stated as follows: "FATHOM Marine shall undertake refloating operation of the barge INVESTIGATOR. HARLEY MARINE SERVICES shall assist FATHOM MARINE in its

- 2.59 With a clear directive from the Canadian government, Olympic and HMS immediately mobilized all available resources to attempt to recover the INVESTIGATOR.
  - 2.60 Despite this, Fathom continued to interfere with recovery of the barge.
- 2.61 Upon information and belief, Fathom would not mobilize available heavy equipment to participate in the refloating of the INVESTIGATOR, while it simultaneously interfered with Olympic and HMS renting the equipment directly.
- 2.62 Fathom refused to confirm even the availability of heavy equipment at its disposal that could be used to assist Olympic and HMS to refloat and recover the INVESTIGATOR.
- 2.63 Due to Fathom's delays, work on refloating the barge with airbags did not begin in earnest until October 10, when Fathom finally delivered to Olympic and HMS the first airbag to refloat the barge.
- 2.64 Despite Fathom's behavior, five airbags were eventually placed under the barge, and progress was made towards refloating it.
- 2.65 However, on October 16, 2016, the CCG terminated all recovery operations due to increasing ice and hazardous weather. As predicted, seasonal ice had arrived in the area, making continued operations too hazardous to continue. The cessation of work due to the arrival of seasonal ice was the precise thing Olympic and HMS had warned of since mid-September.
- 2.66 Olympic and HMS could have fully refloated the barge with an additional 48 hours of time to work.
  - 2.67 The INVESTIGATOR remains grounded in the Canadian Arctic.
- 2.68 Fathom's ineptness, conceit, and obstruction, above described, were the direct causes of Olympic and HMS' inability to refloat and recover the INVESTIGATOR.
- 2.69 It was later discovered that Fathom entered into an undisclosed agreement with it and Olympic's mutual insurers which favored Fathom's financial assets over those of Olympic and HMS. Fathom has received over \$500,000 in improper payments, while Olympic and HMS received nothing.

- 2.70 Simultaneously, Fathom and its underwriters denied information to Olympic. Indeed, until March of this year—when Olympic's underwriters sued Olympic in Canada—Olympic and Fathom's joint underwriters refused even to provide Olympic with a copy of the insurance policies on which Olympic was a named insured.
- 2.71 Fathom's actions held the INVESTIGATOR hostage while threatening petroleum discharge into Inuvialuit territory, onto culturally significant locations, and into the surrounding pristine environment. Fathom's actions were performed for the apparent purpose of permitting Fathom to reap the benefits of its inept "recovery efforts" while simultaneously using the INVESTIGATOR's precarious position and threat to the environment to negotiate a better purchase price from Olympic and HMS.
- 2.72 Approximately two weeks after the CCG discontinued recovery operations,
  Fathom contacted Olympic wishing to discuss "completing" the purchase of the
  INVESTIGATOR, despite Olympic's September 29, 2016 writing in which it rescinded all offers of sale.
- 2.73 Fathom's behavior in grounding the barge, failing to recover it, withholding information, preventing Olympic from refloating and recovering the barge, while threatening the local stakeholders and the natural environment with a petroleum spill was reckless, willful, and wanton.
- 2.74 Total costs associated with Olympic/HMS' efforts to refloat and recover the INVESTIGATOR are in excess of \$4,300,000, and include costs of personnel and chartering of equipment used in the recovery effort.
- 2.75 Olympic's joint insurance carriers have failed, at present, to pay any of Olympic/HMS' costs associated with recovering the INVESTIGATOR.
- 2.76 Fathom has ceased paying charter hire to Olympic despite the barge never having been redelivered to Olympic under the terms of the governing Charter. Hire continues to accrue. Currently owed hire is in excess of \$300,000.

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1	VII. FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION							
2	PROMISSORY ESTOPPEL							
3	7.1 Plaintiffs hereby incorporate the above-stated allegations.							
4	7.2 Fathom assured Olympic/HMS on numerous occasions that the recovery of the							
5	INVESTIGATOR was imminent, and subsequently discouraged and obstructed Olympic/HMS							
6	from becoming meaningfully involved in recovery of the INVESTIGATOR as discussed above.							
7	7.3 The foregoing statements and actions by Fathom constitute promises that Fathom							
8	should have reasonably expected to induce definite and substantial forbearance on the part of							
9	9 Olympic/HMS with regard to the recovery effort of the INVESTIGATOR.							
10	7.4 Fathom's promises induced such reasonable forbearance by Olympic/HMS.							
11	7.5 As a direct, foreseeable and proximate cause of the promises made by Fathom,							
12	Olympic and HMS have suffered damages in an amount to be proved at trial, but not less than							
13	\$4,600,000 resulting from Fathom's failure to honor its promises.							
14	VIII. SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION							
15	UNJUST ENRICHMENT							
16	8.1 Plaintiffs hereby incorporate the above-stated allegations.							
17	8.2 As a result of its failure to perform, as agreed, Fathom has been unjustly enriched a							
18	8 Olympic's expense and is therefore indebted to Olympic for all amounts owing for charter hire,							
19	past and future, as well as those costs associated with failure to redeliver the INVESTIGATOR,							
20	and costs associated with drydocking and repairing the barge, in an amount to be proven at trial.							
21	IX. SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION							
22	NEGLIGENCE							
23	9.1 Plaintiffs hereby incorporate the above-stated allegations.							
24	9.2 Fathom, as operator of the INVESTIGATOR had a duty to operate the barge with							
25	reasonable degree of care, as provided for under general maritime law.							
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AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF - 18

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### XI. NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION

## REMOVAL AND REDELIVERY OF THE INVESTIGATOR

#### BY WAY OF MANDATORY INJUNCTION

11.1 Plaintiffs hereby incorporate the above-stated allegations.

11.2 Under the governing Charter, Fathom has a duty to redeliver the INVESTIGATOR as required by the Charter, including redelivering the INVESTIGATOR to Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

- 11.3 Stemming from that contractual obligation, Olympic also enjoys certain equitable rights, including the right to have the INVESTIGATOR so redelivered.
- 11.4 There is a substantial likelihood of success by Olympic on the merits of its lawsuit; to wit, Fathom's grounding of the INVESTIGATOR, failure to redeliver it, failure to pay charter hire, failure to secure adequate insurance, and failure to indemnify and hold Olympic harmless are clear breaches of the Charter.
- 11.5 Irreparable injury will be suffered if the INVESTIGATOR is not removed from its present position, including potential petroleum discharge into the surrounding environment, sanction by the CCG, and ongoing damage to Olympic's business reputation.
- 11.6 Harm both to Olympic and the surrounding environment clearly outweigh any burden to Fathom in redelivering the barge—performance Fathom was required to render under the terms of the Charter and per the Direction Orders of the CCG.
- 11.7 Requiring Fathom to redeliver the barge will plainly serve the public interest by removing a threat to the pristine environment surrounding Toker Point and the Inuvialuit population residing nearby.
- 11.8 Accordingly, Olympic requests a mandatory injunction issue requiring Fathom to remove the INVESTIGATOR and redeliver it to Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, per the terms of the governing Charter, as well as perform all of the other obligations which it assumed pursuant to the Charter.

COMPLAINT FOR MONEY DAMAGES AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF - 19

ATTORNEYS AT LAW **BAUER MOYNIHAN & JOHNSON LLP**2101 FOURTH AVENUE - SUITE 2400
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98121-2320
(206) 443-3400

#### XII. PUNITIVE DAMAGES

- 12.1 Plaintiffs hereby incorporate the above-stated allegations.
- 12.2 Fathom's ineptness, conceit, obstruction, and otherwise unconscionable behavior includes, but is not limited to the following: holding Olympic's barge hostage; willfully delaying the recovery of that barge; risking a petroleum spill in an Inuvialuit settlement and a wildlife sanctuary; engaging in the foregoing for the purpose of seeking monetary gain from Olympic's own underwriters (to Olympic and HMS' detriment); engaging in the foregoing for the purpose of negotiating a better purchase price for the INVESTIGATOR.
- 12.3 Fathom's actions constitute reckless, willful, and wanton behavior entitling Olympic and HMS to punitive damages against Fathom.
- 12.4 Olympic and HMS hereby request \$5,000,000 in additional punitive damages against Fathom for its reckless, willful, and wanton conduct.

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Olympic Tug & Barge, Inc. and Harley Marine Services, Inc. pray:

- 1. That the Court award judgment in favor of Olympic and against Fathom on Olympic's causes of action, in an amount to be proven at trial, but not less than \$4,600,000;
  - 2. Punitive damages against Fathom in the amount of \$5,000,000;
- 3. That the Court award judgment in favor of Olympic against Fathom for all fees and costs, including attorneys' fees, called for under the Charter and allowed by applicable law;
- 4. That plaintiff be awarded pre-judgment interest on the unpaid charter hire at the rate called for in the Charter, and otherwise be awarded pre- and post-judgment interest and costs as allowed by law;
- 5. That the Court issue a mandatory injunction against Fathom requiring it to remove the INVESTIGATOR and redeliver it to Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, as well as perform all of the other obligations which it assumed pursuant to the Charter;
  - 6. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

1	DATED this Friday, June 02, 2017.	
2		BAUER MOYNIHAN & JOHNSON LLP
2		s/Tom Waller
٥		Thomas G. Waller, WSBA No. 22963
4		s/Mark Krisher
اہ		Mark A. Krisher, WSBA No. 39314
5		s/Robert Sykes
6		Robert D. Sykes, WSBA No. 49635 Attorneys for plaintiffs Olympic Tug & Barge, Inc.
		and Harley Marine Services, Inc.
7		Bauer Moynihan & Johnson LLP
8		2101 Fourth Avenue, Suite 2400
		Seattle, WA 98121
9		Telephone: (206) 443-3400
10		Fax: (206) 448-9076
10		E-mail: tgwaller@bmjlaw.com
11		E-mail: makrisher@bmjlaw.com E-mail: rsykes@bmjlaw.com
10		L-man. Isykes@omjiaw.com
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